

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 IGA-01 AID-05 MC-01 ACDA-05

DPW-01 EB-07 /086 W

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P R 272344Z NOV 74

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH PRIORITY 0215

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VN, VS, FR

SUBJECT: LE DUC THO PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS

1. SUMMARY: LE DUC THO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS NOVEMBER 27 IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. THE TONE WAS SHARPLY ANTI-GVN AND ANTI-USG. ARTICLE 21 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT WAS A PROMINENT TOPIC. END SUMMARY.

2. LE DUC THO GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 27 AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY IN PARIS. THE CONFERENCE LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR AND WAS WELL ATTENDED BY FRENCH AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.

3. THO'S OPENING STATEMENT RELATED MAINLY TO HIS CURRENT PROGRAM AS THE GUEST OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY. HE SAID THERE WILL BE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THIS WEEK.

4. THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WAS WIDE RANGING. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF HIS REMARKS ON THE MAIN

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TOPICS:

(A) POSSIBILITY OF MEETING SECRETARY KISSINGER OR OTHER U.S. PERSONALITIES: THO SAID HE HAD NOT MET WITH ANY AMERICAN PERSONALITIES WHILE IN PARIS. AS FOR POSSIBLE MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, THO THOUGHT THE SECRETARY HAD ALREADY ANSWERED THIS QUESTION IN TOKYO AND WAS "INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS". THO ADDED: "AT PRESENT, I HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT A TIME FOR SUCH A MEETING."

(B) FRANCO-NVN RELATIONS AND POSSIBILITY OF MEETING FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS: IF THE GOF CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE' THO DECLARED, HE IS READY TO MEET WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS WHILE HE IS IN PARIS. BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE NORMAL AND HAVE IMPROVED.

(C) ARTICLE 21 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT: A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE Q AND A PERIOD WAS DEVOTED TO THIS ISSUE, POSSIBLY LESS BY THO'S DESIGN THAN BECAUSE QUESTIONS DWELT ON IT. THO'S POSITION WAS HARSH AND SOMEWHAT PARADOXICAL. ON THE ONE HAND, HE LAID DOWN CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 21, SAYING THAT THE US MUST RENOUNCE "NEOCOLONIALISM" AND END "INTERFERENCE" IN SOUTH VIETNAM BEFORE THERE CAN BE A NORMALIZATION OF US-DRV RELATIONS AND A REALIZATION OF THIS ARTICLE. HE BLAMED US "NEOCOLONIALISM" AND ALLEGED US VIOLATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT "AS A WHOLE" FOR THE BREAKOFF OF THE ARTICLE 21 NEGOTIATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE CALLED ON THE US TO IMPLEMENT THE ARTICLE WITHOUT DELAY, TERMING IT A "DEBT OF BLOOD". HE ACCUSED THE USG OF USING THE ARTICLE AS A BARGAINING CARD FOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, A POSITION WHICH HE SAID THE DRV CANNOT ACCEPT. HE CHARACTERIZED THE USG STAND ON THIS QUESTION AS ONE OF "TREACHERY AND FALSEHOOD".

(D) GVN-PRG BILATERALS: THOS REFERRED TO THE OCTOBER 8 STATEMENT OF THE PRG AS SHOWING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE BILATERALS COULD RESUME.

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(E) OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT: ASKED ABOUT THE MIA ISSUE, THO SAID: "WE HAVE SHOWN GOODWILL, BUT THE TWO SIDES HAVE NOT AGREED AND THE PROBLEMS REMAIN." HE STRESSED THE VIEW THAT MANY PROBLEMS EXIST, NOT JUST THE MIA QUESTION. HE LISTED FOUR SUCH PROBLEMS, ALL OF THEM LONG-STANDING COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA THEMES: (1) THE ACCUSATION THAT "TENS OF THOUSANDS" OF AMERICAN

MILITARY ADVISORS ARE IN SOUTH VIETNAM DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS, THE CHARGE THAT THE USG GIVES MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO THE GVN IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE WAR, THE ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING "HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AND THE "DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS" ISSUE, WHICH HE RELATED TO THE DEMANDS FOR "MINIMUM SECURITY CONDITIONS" FOR THE PRG

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SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 IGA-01 AID-05 MC-01 ACDA-05

DPW-01 EB-07 /086 W

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DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC.

(F) OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM: HE CALLED CONDITIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM A "MULTIFORM CRISIS" RESULTING FROM POPULAR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE " DICTATORIAL" THIEU ADMINISTRATION. HE APPROVED THIS " LEGITIMATE MOVEMENT", ADDING THAT USG EFFORTS TO ORIENT IT IN A PRO-AMERICAN DIRECTION WILL PROVE FRUITLESS. ASKED ABOUT RECENT PRG DENUNCIATIONS OF FATHER TRAN HUU THANH, THO REPLIED THAT TRANH'S "ACCUSATION NUMBER ONE" AGAINST THIEU WAS GOOD, BUT THAT OTHER ASPECTS

OF THANH'S ACTIVITIES (UNSPECIFIED) COULD BE CRITICIZED,

(G) DRV RELATIONS WITH USSR AND CHINA: THO STATED
THAT BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA CONTINUE TO GIVE
"EXTENSIVE HELP" TO REBUILD NORTH VIETNAM AND TO SUPPORT
THE PRG IN ITS SOUTHERN STRUGGLE.

(H) THE ECONOMY OF NORTH VIETNAM: THO GAVE A LENGTHY
AND GENERALLY UPBEAT DESCRIPTION OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS
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IN NORTH VIETNAM. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "OUR TASK IS
NOT ONLY TO BUILD THE NORTH BUT TO HELP THE STRUGGLE IN
THE SOUTH". THUS, THE ECONOMIC EFFORT IN THE NORTH IS
DIFFICULT, THOUGH IT WILL SUCCEED.

WILLIAMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JECPA28561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740345-0364
From: JEC PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974118/aaaaagqd.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LE DUC THO PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VN, VS, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005